

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,099,718 to Thacker et al.

In the Office Action, claims 2, 5, 12-14, 20, 21, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thacker et al. as applied to claim 19 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,718,212 to Parry et al.

In the Office Action, claims 15-18, 23, and 24 are allowed over the prior art of record.

In the Office Action, claims 22 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, claims 14 and 19 have been cancelled and claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 12, 20-22, 25, and 26 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-13, 15, and 17-20 are now pending. Following is a discussion of the patentability of each of the pending claims.

Independent Claim 15 and Dependent Claims 16-18, 23, and 24

Claim 15-18, 23, and 24 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Independent Claim 22

In the Office Action, claim 22 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 14. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 22 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-8, 12, 13, and 21

Claims 2-8, 12, 13, and 21 depend from claim 22 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 26

In the Office Action, claim 26 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 19. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 26 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 20 and 25


Claims 20 and 25 depend from claim 26 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ronald S. Tamura, Reg. No. 43,179
Patent Attorney for Applicants
818-493-3157

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